

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Page 1, first paragraph, of the specification should be amended as follows:<sup>1</sup>

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0001] This is a continuation of prior International Application number PCT/EP97/07337, filed 31 December 1997, ~~and designating~~ which designates the United States of America ~~and was published in English by the International Bureau on July 9, 1998 as WO 98/29057,~~ which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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<sup>1</sup> This amendment is to the original claim for priority made in the Transmittal when the application was filed. If it is determined that making such amendment in the Transmittal was improper, please insert into the application the amended paragraph provided herein as the first paragraph of the application.